

Meeting Record

**MPO Technical Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 29, 2004
Room 113, City County Building
Lincoln, Nebraska**

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Allan Abbott, Roger Figard, Karl Fredrickson, Randy Hoskins, Larry Worth; Public Works/Utilities, Marvin Krout; Planning, Don Thomas, Doug Pillard (representing Larry Worrell); County Engineering, Ron Schlautman (representing Steve McBeth), James Miller (representing Eldon Poppe), NDOR, and Rick Thoreson; Health.

OTHERS: Mike Brienzo, Brian Praeuner, Karen Sieckmeyer; Public Works/Utilities, Kent Morgan; Planning, and Dan Briggs; Federal Highway Administration

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Technical Committee Meeting

Allan Abbott called the meeting to order and roll was taken.

Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the May 11, 2004, Technical Committee Meeting.

Randy Hoskins pointed out that the voting record should be changed to show 8 - 0 with Krout and McBeth abstaining. On page 2, Section 4, Comprehensive Amendment No. 04016 it should read *The NW area of Lincoln had not been designated with any Tier II area.* On page 2, Section 5, the last sentence should read *the closing of Yankee Hill Road East of 91st Street.* A motion was made by Roger Figard to approve the minutes, with the above mentioned correction, Larry Worth seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Review and action on the *Lincoln-Lancaster FY 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program* for the Transportation Planning.

Mike Brienzo spoke about the Unified Planning Work Program which is an MPO document that is used to identify the planning priorities and funding allocations for the MPO Region. The funding element that comes with this is primarily PL Funds with the Federal Funding Program Highway Projects. This satisfies Federal requirements that this document is published and the City looks to this document to see if the project is programmed before any Federal funds are spent. Mike went on to explain the different sections within the Work Program.

The action that is being requested today is the recommendation of approval of the Unified Planning Work

Program by the Technical Committee. The recommendation will be taken to the Officials Committee for action. A comment was received on the way the 2003 carryover funds were identified on page 48. They are carryover funds from 2003 but they have been reprogrammed in 2005 and stated as such. Mike also noted that the new Federal Highway Bill has not been passed yet and the MPO funds used for this program are tied to that bill. What we are doing is programming funds are based upon last years program amount. A note will be added at the bottom of page 48 stating that the new Federal Highway Bill has not been passed yet and this program is upon the continuation of existing funding levels. The City may get additional funding but that information will not be available until this Bill is passed. The Program before you is the TEA-21 funding level from last year.

Allan asked what the schedule was for the Travel Demand Model to be completed. Mike mentioned that the City has an in-house draft from an RFP that will be publicized shortly. We intend on moving forward on the purchase and development of the TransCAD modeling system. Randy Hoskins mentioned that this is a multi-year project and Public Works wanted to make sure that this model is the model that will work best for us. The State has already switched over to this software. He added that the schedule that is laid out right now is pretty aggressive. Public Works wants the current model switched over to the new model in place by December. This will be adding other functions that the current model cannot do now, so this may show up again next year. Allan said we have a lot of things that depend on the model so we need to make sure that we do everything that we can to make sure it moves along as quickly as we can.

A motion was made by Don Thomas to recommend approval and forward to the Officials Committee, seconded by Roger Figard. Motion carried unanimously.

Item Agenda #3 - Review of the Mobile Source Air Emissions Monitoring Activity by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Rick Thoreson, of the Health Department, is the supervisor of Air Quality Section. On page 57 of the Unified Work Program, you will see the results of his report. The Health Department performs several activities to try to understand what the air pollution picture is in Lincoln-Lancaster County. One of them is real time air monitoring which is conducted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They also perform computer modeling. In addition, they annually inventory several of their largest stationary sources. Using those activities and the data they collect, they are able to look at trends in the air quality picture. The Health Department has seen steady numbers over the last five years. For the past three years, the American Lung Association has ranked Lincoln as one of the cleanest in the nation for ozone air quality. This year they also looked at particulate matter and Lincoln also scored well in that area. Rich went on to tell about computer modeling.

Lincoln is well below the standards when it comes to carbon monoxide. The Health Department has been monitoring fine particulate matter for approximately six years. Their numbers are at about 63% of the standard. Those numbers remain about the same each year. Overall, Lincoln should be comfortable with the air quality we are experiencing here in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Rick mentioned that they have recently purchased a new monitor called an Ethel odometer which

actually measures diesel particulate matter. The Health Department received a grant to allow them to purchase this instrument and currently they are considering placing it at the Burlington Northern Sante Fe West "O" Street switching yards. BN has been looking at some technology that would allow them to turn some of those switch engines off. The issues is the fluid in the engines need to remain a certain temperature within a certain temperature range. There is some technology available that allows the engine to be shut off and keep those fluids at the right temperature. The result is a dramatic in diesel particulate emissions as well as other emissions from the diesel engines especially in the colder weather months when they have to leave the engines running continuously. The Health Department wants to do some testing before application and then after the new technology is installed on their engines to see if we can measure a different in the diesel particulate matter. This equipment may also being used around the City in certain high traffic areas where diesel truck traffic is high to see what kind of concentrations we might receive. He feels we should see numbers that are well below any current standards. This is an opportunity for the City and County to measure a type of pollutant that we have never been able to do before. Rick believes that the Health Department will be the first in Nebraska and perhaps one of only two other agencies in the Midwest to actually use this type of equipment.

Item No. 4. Other topics for discussion. Mike Brienzo mentioned that the State is applying to the Planning Commission to amend the Transportation Plan to include the Highway 77 Improvements that they have identified through the State's planning process. Public Works should be back to the Technical Committee by the end of July or August with this review and make recommendations to the Planning Commission.

Allan asked for an update at the next Technical Committee Meeting on the State's Long Range Transportation Plan. Ron Schlautman will pass this information on to Steve McBeth who is the heading this up for the State.

There being no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned.